

**Camden Select Board
Minutes of Meeting
November 29, 2011**

PRESENT: Chairperson Martin Cates, Vice Chairperson Morgan Laidlaw, John French, Jr., James Heard, Donald White, and Town Manager Pat Finnigan. Also present were members of the press and public.

ABSENT: Town Attorney William Kelly

Contents

1. Non-agenda items

- a. Douglas Johnson, Vice-Chair of the Camden Conservation Commission, asked the Select Board to consider appointing new members to the Commission without delay as there were four candidates awaiting approval.
- b. Bob Gassett, Chairman of the Camden Conservation Commission, asked the Select Board if there had been a reason the appointments to the Commission had been delayed. Chairperson Cates said he had asked the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board to get together and come back with information and goals, along with any additional membership requests, by November 30th so that the item could be placed on the December 6th agenda.
- c. Ray Andresen asked the Board to consider a ban or restriction on the sale and use of fireworks in Camden. John French recommended that a moratorium be discussed at the next meeting of the Board, December 6th. Town Manager Finnegan noted that the State Fire Marshall will be releasing relevant information shortly.
- d. Donald White spoke about the gingerbread “mouse village” that had been set up in the Opera House windows, created by Trish Moroz of Starlight Custom Cakes. Children are invited to guess the number of mice in the scene.
- e. Morgan Laidlaw noted that his family was looking forward to the Christmas By the Sea Parade Friday night.
- f. John French asked how traffic would be handled during the parade. Town Manager Finnigan responded that the Chief would be holding traffic until the parade is completed. John French added that the Town had done a great job clearing snow following the recent storm.

- 2. Request to submit a Grant application to the Recreational Trails Program for the Megunticook Riverwalk Trail Project.** Geoff Scott, representing the Recreation Trails Program, along with Jeff Kuller of the Parks and Recreation Department, asked the Board to approve submission of a \$15,000 grant application through the Maine Department of Transportation to fund construction of the Megunticook Riverwalk Trail to be located along the former Tannery site. Scott presented a detailed overview of the elements of the trail’s design. The trail would span about 900 feet and would be administered by Camden Parks and Recreation and the Maine Bureau of Land Management. It will feature a platform or “deck” overlooking the river with a railing around it for wheelchair access. John French asked if the trail would have to be ADA compliant; Town Manager Finnegan said she will look into the ADA question with the Town Attorney. A site plan review of the project is scheduled for Dec. 8th.

Donald White made a motion to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to submit a grant application to the Recreational Trails Program for the Megunticook Riverwalk Trail Project, contingent on Planning Board Review. James Heard seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

3. **Approval of the 2012 Harbor Fee Schedule.** Harbormaster Stephen Pixley presented information on the proposed 2012 Harbor Fee Schedule. Board members discussed the importance of keeping town fees at a rate so as not to compete with local businesses that offer dockage to visiting vessels. The dockage fees will be considered at a future Select Board meeting.

James Heard made a motion to approve the 2012 Harbor Fees as recommended by the Harbor Committee. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

4. **Approval to enter into a PACE Administration Contract with the Efficiency Maine Trust to administer the PACE program through the Camden PACE Ordinance.** The Board considered whether to enter into a contract with the Efficiency Maine Trust to administer the PACE program through the Camden PACE Ordinance. Town Manager Finnigan said that this is a new program to make homes more energy-efficient and that voters had approved the PACE ordinance at a Special Town Meeting on Nov. 8 by a vote of 1593 to 286.

Donald White made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into the attached agreement with Efficiency Maine to administer the PACE program. James Heard seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

5. **Approval of Revocable License agreement with the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce.** The Board then considered approving a Revocable License agreement with the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's office building is located on Town property at the Town Landing. At its August 16, 2011 meeting, the Select Board had voted to support a proposed 20-year lease. Town Manager Finnigan said that the lease was presented to the voters for enactment at the Nov. 8 Special Town Meeting and had passed by a vote of 1583 to 27.

Donald White made a motion authorizing the Select Board Chair to sign the lease agreement between the Town and the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce, making the appropriate changes to the legal paperwork. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

6. **Approval of the application from Central Maine Power for pole location on Cedar Street.** The Board considered an application from Central Maine Power to locate a pole on Cedar Street. There were no questions or discussion.

Donald White made a motion to approve the application from Central Maine Power for a pole location on Cedar Street. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

7. **Committee Reports**

- a. Donald White reported on the meeting of the Camden Public Library Trustees on November 17th where the Trustees voted to approve recommended PTO for their employees effective January 1st. The CPL nominating committee nominated Roger Moody to the Centennial Fund Board and he was elected to that post. The slate of officers for the coming year was also approved unanimously by the Library Trustees.

- b. James Heard reported on the meeting of the Harbor Committee on November 23rd.
- c. Chairperson Cates summarized the recent CEDAC meeting where the Downtown Plan was discussed.

8. Manager's Report

- a. Town Manager Finnigan noted that this upcoming Friday would be the kickoff of the Annual Christmas By the Sea celebration. There would be a full schedule of events coordinated by the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce and she urged everyone to attend.

Donald White made a motion to adjourn as Select Board and reconvene as Board of Assessors. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

- 1. Approval of tax abatement for Amanda Gilligan & John Carter at 17 Powder Mill for real estate property taxes in the amount of \$243.63 for the property tax year 2011-2012.**

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- 2. Approval of a Supplemental Tax Warrant to Amanda Gilligan & John Carter at 17 Powder Mill Road for real estate taxes in the amount of \$243.63 for the property tax year 2011-2012.**

Town Manager Finnigan explained that these were technical issues regarding re-numbering the accounts in order to comply with State law.

John French made a motion to approve both the tax abatement and the supplemental tax warrant as suggested. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

John French made a motion to adjourn at 7:55pm. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary